

CIVIC HORTICULTURE.

Value of Improvement Workers Along This Line.

A well known writer and lecturer on horticulture and landscape design has defined civic horticulturists as those "who so cultivate ornamental plants in public or private grounds as to give pleasure and benefit to the public as well as themselves." He says further on the same subject, "Ornamental plants become in the hands of the civic horticulturists the garments of civic improvement, for they clothe parks, buildings, lawns, streets and landscapes."

It is well with any community that contains one or more of this class of improvement workers, for they are indeed qualified to intelligently carry forward a comprehensive plan of work for beautification that will find a hearty response from all classes of residents, says the Los Angeles Times. A "comprehensive plan" implies a carefully considered summing up of all the needs of a district which lie in the power of an improvement society to supply either directly or indirectly, giving first place and time to those basic problems which when solved will make easy the task of carrying out the balance of the plan.

This work may not with profit be entrusted to those who are either most enthusiastic or most energetic or even a well balanced combination of the two. Those who are best qualified to carry out a plan are not always best qualified to plan. No more serious problem ever confronted a section, town or city than the proper assignment of work to individual members of an improvement society, for an intelligent adjustment of the problems in hand by proper methods often turn into success what would ordinarily prove a succession of failures.

NATURE STUDY COURSES.

Plan to Interest Children in Town Beautiful Work.

One of the safest, surest and most effective methods of interesting the children in beautifying the school grounds, parkways, the home and eventually all public property is to instruct them in nature study courses, particularly in plant life. The average child has so far grown up to pass by certain trees and plants on his way to school without even taking note of what they are. This indifference remains, in most instances, precisely the same from the first school day to the very last one. A street tree passed each day during all these school years has simply meant to him an object of certain dimensions, but of no more interest than the buildings along the same route of travel.

But have him bring to school and study the foliage and blossom of this tree and it immediately becomes an object of unusual interest, as does much other vegetation, an interest that increases to the end of life. Many states have adopted nature study in the public schools solely to teach pupils about the common things about him on every hand. Garden plants, field crops, weeds, trees and everything in the plant kingdom may be used to great advantage and everlasting value. When the child has become deeply interested in inanimate life the effect will soon become apparent in the home garden, later upon the parkway in the shape of lawn or bedding plants and also well tended street trees. The battle is then practically won, and we have one more advocate for a more beautiful town, city or district.

TOWN IMPROVEMENT.

How Parks and Playgrounds Help to Lessen Crime.

The American Civic association is busy gathering data about city, town and village improvement. In Chicago, according to an article in Suburban Life, it is found that the opening of the south side parks is having a marvelous effect on juvenile crime. The figures are not yet completely tabulated, but the reduction is estimated to be in excess of 50 per cent. It is found, too, that the effect on the public health of such facilities is very great.

A certain district of Harrisburg was about to be cut out because of its unhealthy condition by one of the insurance companies, but after the establishment of a park in that vicinity the health of the section so improved that the insurance company gladly keeps on with its business.

It is much more essential to have a properly equipped playground for children than it is to have drives and flower beds—in fact, the drives and flower beds may come at the last, though there should always be park highways through the public property set aside for park purposes.

Sand boxes are easily made and are mighty interesting to the children. A proper outdoor gymnasium costs from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and it will at once decrease crime and disorder and increase the public health. A wading pool for the children is excellent. The first thing, however, usually needed is a public ball diamond and, if possible, public tennis courts. Baths and other play and recreation facilities may readily follow in good order.

Infectious Improvement Fevers. Remember that "village and farm improvement fevers" are "catching," and where one home shows care and beauty another will soon follow suit. Once started on a village street the fever spreads, until there are many beauty spots along the way. It is the same with the farming community, and if the woman has her way there is no end to lovely things growing, and the waste places are soon filled with vine and flower and fruit. Shall you be the first?

DIANA OF THE DIRECTOIRE.

Bring me my new fur hat, mamma, for I want to put it on.
It is wider than the widest hats we wore in years ago.
It is three feet wide, and the brim is thick, and it has a lot of weight.
And it makes me wear three heads of hair just to keep it sitting straight.
My shoes? Ah, yes! I have put them on, and the heels are good and high, and they press against my tender feet till I feel that I must die.
Yet I wear them so as I come and go, and I force a pleasant smile.
For one has to be in style, mamma—one has to be in style.

And now my directoire gown, mamma. I've managed to don my stays.
You will have to slip me into it, for my arms I cannot raise.
And I'm willowy, as you may see, with the willowiness of steel.
It will be tonight ere I take a bite, for I cannot hold a meal!

And now I go for a little stroll, and I go to make a call.
And I shall not sit upon a chair, but shall lean against the wall.
For I can't sit down in my nice new gown, for I know that if I do I'll be certain to break in two, mamma—I'll certainly break in two!
—Wilbur Nesbit in Chicago Post.

EASY DISHWASHING.

Lightening the Weary Work of "Three Times a Day."

One of the unnecessary things in housekeeping is the continuous washing and wiping of dishes, says a woman in the Housekeeper.

Methinks I hear a cry of horror from a horde of housekeepers, but many of them have nevertheless at one time or another rebelled against the stack of dishes which looms up, like the school-boy's hash, "three times a day."

It is queer how some women will wear themselves out rather than step aside from the beaten path. They have yet to learn the joy that comes from taking an independent tack and making the work subservient to the worker, from being the master instead of the slave.

To many women the bugbear of housework is dishwashing. Why wash dishes three times a day? Do it in the morning when fresh. Scrape the dinner dishes, stack in a large pan filled with cold water and cover.

Treat the supper dishes the same way, and do not allow your conscience to keep you awake one single hour. It will not make the task too heavy the next morning if you try my way.

After washing each piece in hot suds and rinsing in hot (not warm) water, put them, piece by piece, in the wire drainer (price 10 cents) as nearly on edge or aslant as possible, and let stand until dry.

Glasses, of course, and silver must be wiped, but the former can be left filled after using and the latter put into a pitcher or deep jug until some odd minute when one is not so weary with well doing that another turn of the screw seems next to impossible.

The Tapestry Craze.

One of the most attractive forms of embroidery which have been revived recently is the tapestry work used on cushions, screens, chair backs and seats and in smaller pieces to be mounted on stools, blotters, box lids, etc. It is comparatively simple work, and the designs are most attractive.



SQUARE FOR CHAIR SEAT.

Copies of old tapestries, of Watteau and other subjects, of Dutch scenes and of simple floral patterns, are traced on canvas and all the portions of the design applied in the correct colorings. The embroiderer merely works over the lines in careful stitches, as in the most conventional needlework.

The example given is a Louis chair seat in rich colorings which give an effect of perspective seldom attained in embroidery.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY.

If people laughed more they would all be happier and healthier.

Equal quantities of lemon juice, lusterine and glycerin make an excellent mouth wash.

Don't expect physic and tonics to keep you well if you neglect the laws of health and hygiene.

A mixture of white of egg and red pepper is good for neuralgic headaches. Apply it to the base of the brain.

When a splinter has been driven deep into the hand it can be extracted without pain by steam. Nearly fill a wide mouthed bottle with hot water, place the injured part over the mouth of the bottle and press tightly. The suction will draw the flesh down, and in a minute or two the steam will extract the splinter and the inflammation will disappear.

A shoe which compresses the foot retards circulation of the blood much as the compression of a rubber hose retards the flow of water. It is as foolish and unhygienic to wear such shoes as it would be to sleep in a poorly ventilated room in a bed several feet too short to accommodate the full length of the body. Can you imagine any greater discomfort or one more calculated to destroy the health and cause the most distressing of nightmares?

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The Crop Reports

Important Factor in Commercial World

By CHARLES C. CLARK,

Associate Statistician, U. S. Department of Agriculture.



IT IS universally conceded that farming—agriculture—is the basic industry upon which all other industries greatly depend. The measure of the country's crops is to a large extent the measure of the country's prosperity, and the purchasing power of the people is increased or diminished as the crops are bountiful or meager. Therefore the commercial interests of the country are vitally affected by the quantity and quality of the crops; and it becomes a matter of vast importance to them to know "in advance" what the crop prospects are during the growing season and what the output is at harvest.

With such information carefully and scientifically gathered and compiled, and honestly disseminated, so that it can be depended upon as being as reliable as any forecast or estimate can possibly be, and relied upon as emanating from an impartial and disinterested source, the merchants and manufacturers of the country can certainly act with a degree of prudence and intelligence not possible were the information lacking.

If reports show, during the growing season, that the condition of wheat is such as to indicate a full crop on a large area, the merchants of the wheat-producing sections of the country know that they can give liberal orders for goods to be handled by them several weeks or months later; the manufacturers, located far from the wheat fields, know where there will be a large demand for such of their products as are used by all dependent upon the wheat industry; the railroad companies know they will have heavy freights to transport; and so the advance knowledge regarding the probable future outcome of the crop serves as a guide to every branch of commerce and trade connected with the wheat-growing areas of the country. The same is true as to the other crops—corn, cotton, oats, rye, tobacco, etc.

If, on the other hand, the condition of growing crops is unfavorable, reliable information to that effect is equally, in fact more, important to trade and commerce than when the promise is good.

It was to remedy the evils and to subserve and protect the interests of all, as above noted, that congress provided for issuing monthly crop reports, and the crop-reporting service of the department of agriculture aims to supply the public at large with impartial, unbiased information regarding crop areas, conditions, and yields which, it must be apparent, is highly essential and beneficial not only to farmers, but also, equally, to our commercial interests of every kind and class.

Writing from Real Life

By JAMES B. CONNOLLY,

Author of "Out of Gloucester."

Aren't we all trying to paint life as we find it, without caring overmuch where we find it, provided it is interesting to us and not too sordid for decent men's enjoyment? Preferably do we not take our stories from real life, thereby saving ourselves just so much work?

And never a story worth while that did not come from life, which is, after all, as much in the spirit as in the body, as much in the aspirations as in the accomplishments; but this does not mean that we try to tell a story as we hear it—does any imaginative person ever?—but you hear a

story and it suggests to you a treatment by which it may be made to serve a purpose. When you get through with it it may differ as much from the original tale as the plant does from the seed, but in that original tale was the germinal idea, and isn't that about all that anybody with a moderately varied experience in life needs? You are given the skeleton; it is for you to add flesh and blood and breathe the spirit into it; and will not the likeness to a real human being which that figure displays be about in proportion to our knowledge of human nature and whatever little gift we may have for inducing others to see things as do we ourselves?

As to the plot—need that matter much? And if it does, they lie all about us—life is full of plots—not always equal to the demands of melodrama, perhaps, but sufficient to the largest requirement. Take any group of people, of varying standards of conduct, and set them striving for some one thing, and do we not immediately get a struggle of some kind—and doesn't every struggle develop its own plot? For myself, I think a plot should be kept very much under, as it is in actual life, where there are very few villains and very few sublime heroes, and where a man's course is a hundred times more likely to be guided by impulse than by intellectually guided action.



LOCKNAME SCHOOL CLOSES WEDNESDAY.

The Lockname school of which C. C. Perry is teacher, will close Wednesday until after the holidays. Mr. Perry will return to his home in Anderson county, where he will spend several days hunting and visiting.

ENTERTAINMENT AT RUCKERVILLE SCHOOL.

Prof. Robert Berryman Closes Term With Interesting Program.

A school entertainment was held at the Ruckerville school house Sat-

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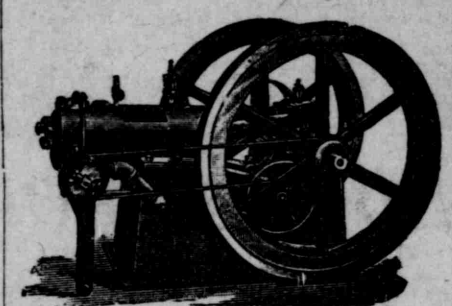
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To Cure Love Madness.

Dr. Berillon of Paris says that love is simply a "fixed affective idea," and the symptoms are an increased sensitiveness of the left side, hand, wrist and left temple. To cure it all one has to do is to set up a counter irritation, give the boy or girl physical exercises that will bring into play the muscles of the right side, and, behold, the madness is cured.